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The media coverage surrounding the Michael Vick case brought to light a violent practice that has gone virtually unnoticed for many years. The Humane Society estimates approximately 40,000 people currently participate in dog fighting organizations, but the number of fight dogs in the ring could top 100,000.

After reading about these tragic events, Congress responded with the passage of landmark legislation. On May 3, 2007, former President Bush signed the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-22) into law, making it illegal to buy, sell or transport an animal to participate in an animal fighting venture.

Congressman Kirk was proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation and to vote for its passage on March 26, 2007. There is no question that dog fighting is inhumane, and violators of the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act must be held accountable. This law is a crucial first step in shutting down this practice for good.

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